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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/691,614

10/24/2003

Gi Young Jang

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7590

11/17/2006

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EXAMINER

HANSEN, JAMES ORVILLE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3637

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/691,614

Applicant(s)

JANG, GI YOUNG

Examiner

James O. Hansen

Art Unit

3637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 20-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 22,24 and 37 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 20,21,23 and 25-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 February 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 22, 24 & 37 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Applicant timely traversed the restriction (election) requirement in the reply filed on August 30, 2006.
2. Applicant's election with traverse of Species A in the reply is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. This is not found persuasive because applicant did not submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. Accordingly, the requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Drawings

3. The proposed replacement drawing was received on February 8, 2006. Accordingly, the drawing has been approved by the examiner for examination purposes.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
2. Claims 20, 21, 25-28, 32 & 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ma [U.S. Patent No. 5,570,267]. Ma teaches an inherent method for

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fixing a flat display panel (A) comprising the steps of: aligning a flat display panel with a back cover (B) – fig. 1; coupling the flat display panel to the back cover using a fastener (note the upwardly directed screws); and coupling a front cover (C) to the back cover; wherein aligning a display panel with a back cover and coupling the display panel to the back cover further comprises coupling the display panel and a fixing frame (viewed as the outer frame around the display panel – the frame and the panel forming the display unit) to the back cover using the fastener after aligning the display panel with the frame (see fig. 1) – the position is taken that the display panel would inherently be aligned with the fixing frame when forming the combined display unit, this unit would then be coupled to the back cover as shown. The back cover comprises a rear portion of a housing for the display panel as readily apparent to the examiner. The front cover comprises a front portion of the housing for the display panel that includes an opening (fig. 1) through which an image on the panel may be displayed. The back cover is configured to support the display panel when the panel is coupled to the back cover and the front cover is coupled to the back cover as readily apparent to the examiner, wherein aligning the panel with a fixing frame comprises aligning at least one first fixing portion (viewed as any portion along the panel periphery) provided on the panel with a corresponding at least one second fixing portion (viewed as any portion covering the panel periphery) on the frame. Ma further teaches aligning the display unit with back cover before coupling the unit to the back cover wherein this aligning step comprises aligning at least one aligning guide (viewed as the surface aperture on the frame) on the fixing frame with at least one corresponding guide portion (viewed as the surface aperture on the cover) provided on the back cover, so far as broadly recited.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 20, 21 & 25-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art Admission {fig. 1 – known hereafter as APAA}. APAA (fig. 1 and specification pages 2-4). APAA teaches an inherent method for fixing a flat display panel (4) comprising the steps of: aligning the flat display panel with a front cover (5); coupling a flat display panel on the front cover using a fastener (7); and coupling a back cover (2) on the front cover; wherein after being aligned with a fixing frame (3), a flat display panel is coupled together with the fixing frame on the front cover by the fastener as shown in fig. 1, wherein the back cover and the front cover are coupled to each other by screws (8). The back cover comprises a rear portion of a housing for the display panel as readily apparent to the examiner. The front cover comprises a front portion of the housing for the display panel that includes an opening (fig. 1) through which an image on the panel may be displayed. The back cover is configured to support the display panel when the panel is coupled to the back cover and the front cover is coupled to the back cover by virtue that the front panel is coupled to the back panel and the display panel is mounted to the front panel, wherein aligning the panel with a fixing frame comprises aligning at least one first fixing portion (viewed as the portion that receives element (6)) provided on the panel with a corresponding at least one second fixing portion (viewed as the portion that receives element (7)) on the frame. APAA teaches applicant's inventive claimed

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structure as disclosed above, but does not show the combined display panel and fixing frame as being fastened to the back cover [APAA shows the opposite connection, i.e., panel to front cover]. However, the position is taken that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to rearrange the preference as to which cover is fixed to the panel/frame assembly via a fastener, since it has been held that a mere reversal of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art and therefore will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability. As to claims 29-31, APAA utilizes two distinct fasteners for coupling the display unit and frame to the front cover, however, the position is taken that it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the fixing tabs of the frame and the panel into one axially aligned tab arrangement for the purpose of utilizing one fastener to join the combined frame and panel to the front cover. Such a modification would reduce the number of fasteners needed to secure the display unit to either of the covers thereby reducing the costs associated with the production of the device.

5. Claims 23 & 34-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ma in view of Ohgami et al., [U.S. Patent No. 5,905,550]. Ma teaches applicant's inventive claimed steps as disclosed above, but does not show the coupling of the front cover to the back cover via a hook and a corresponding hook receiving portion [Ma uses conventional fasteners]. However, Ohgami (figures 1-14) teaches the use of a hook (25) on a front cover (21) and the use of a hook receiving portion (26) on a back cover (20) for the purpose of securing the covers together. As such, the position is taken that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the coupling of Ma so as to substitute a hook

arrangement as taught by Ohgami for the conventional fastener arrangement as employed by Ma because this coupling feature would provide for the secure coupling of the front cover to the back cover while allowing the covers to be uncoupled thereby reducing the number of parts needed to secure the parts together [see col. 3 of Ohgami].

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed February 8, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's remarks, it is viewed that the above rejections of the claims adequately address the arguments put forth. It is further noted that the examiner clearly designated which covers of Ma were viewed as the front and back, and such a designation is reasonable in view of the anticipatory nature of the reference relative to the claims. Furthermore, the previous rejection under 103(a) was with respect to APAA {applicant's submission of Figure 1 in the instant application} as opposed to Ma [unless of course, applicant has knowledge that fig. 1 of the instant application is prior art in view of a Ma document currently not of record].

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

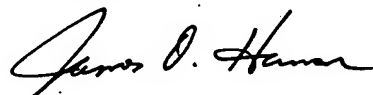
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James O. Hansen whose telephone number is 571-272-6866. The examiner can be reached on Monday-Friday between 8-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



James O. Hansen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3637